

Briefing Paper: Far North Transport Choices Program

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Ngā whāinga | Purpose

The purpose of this briefing paper is to update elected members on Far North District Council's successful funding application for 100% funded Transport Choices Programs.

Horopaki | Context

The Transport Choices program was established in response to the Government's Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP), to provide greater and more affordable low-emissions transport choices for everyone to get where they are going.

The Transport Choices program has four key investment objectives;

1. Delivering strategic cycling / micro-mobility networks
2. Creating walkable neighbourhoods
3. Supporting safe, green and healthy school travel
4. Making public transport more reliable and easier to use.

For projects to be eligible for Transport Choices investment they must meet all three of the following criteria;

- A. Demonstrably meet at least one of the four key investment objectives; and
- B. Be a listed project within the approved Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP), and Council's LTP, but not funded within the current 2021-24 funding period; and
- C. Be able to be completed by June 2024.

In December 2022 Waka Kotahi informed Council that we were successful in receiving \$3.23 million for the following two programs.

Program 1 – FNDC01 Kerikeri Active Mode Network Connections

Program 2 – FNDC02 Far North Bus Improvements

All projects within the two programs align with the LTP, Kerikeri-Waipapa Structure Plan, address public requests, and enable staged projects to be completed. Some projects have been consulted on and scheme designs well progressed or finished as part of a wider program of works, including the Cobham/Hone Heke Intersection Improvements and the Kerikeri Schools safe school treatments.

Refer to Attachment 1 – Far North Transport Choices Package Details and to Attachment 2 – Kerikeri Active Modes Project Map.

Ngā kōrerorero | Discussion

The Far North Transport Choices package is made of seven projects within the two programs. The Transport Choices package complements the following existing Long-Term Plan (LTP) and privately funded projects -

- Kerikeri High / Kerikeri Primary safe school treatments
- Cobham/Hone Heke Intersection Improvements (Urban Roundabout Design)
- Bay of Islands-Kerikeri Speed Management
- Private developer funded pedestrian bridge over the Kerikeri River connecting Rainbow Falls to the Kerikeri Village Centre
- Private developer funded roadway connection of Mill Lane and Hall Road.

Program 1 – FNDC01 Kerikeri Active Mode Network Connections

This program is made up of four distinct projects targeted to improve active transport within Kerikeri and specifically improve active transport connections to Kerikeri High School and Kerikeri Primary School.

1. Hone Heke Road Slow Streets Improvements

The purpose of this project is to slow vehicles down and improve safety for children using active transport to travel to the schools and day care centre on Hone Heke Road. This will be achieved through a combination of footpath widening, new pedestrian crossing facilities and traffic calming. Work will also include intersection improvements at the Hone Heke Road / Kerikeri Road intersection.

2. Kerikeri Road Cycleway Connections

The purpose of this project is to provide active transport connectivity between the historic Stone Store area and Kerikeri Village Centre. This will be achieved through building a protected (uphill) cycle lane and shared lane markings (downhill) on Kerikeri Road between Hone Heke Road and the Stone Store.

3. Neighbourhood Greenways

The purpose of this project is to provide active transport connectivity between the neighbourhoods bordering Hall Road, Shepherd Road and Cobham Road, as well as connections from Waipapa via Golfview and Fairway Drive, with the Kerikeri Village Centre, Kerikeri High School and Kerikeri Primary School. This will be achieved through constructing missing road-to-road footpath links, providing clear wayfinding signage and markings as well as providing on-road shared lane markings for cyclists.

4. Hone Heke Slow Streets Improvements

The purpose of this project is to provide high quality cycle trail connections between the neighbourhoods bordering Hall Road, Shepards Road and Cobham Road with the Kerikeri Village Centre and Kerikeri Primary and High Schools. This will be achieved by creating a cycle trail along the Wairoa Stream from General Gates Avenue to Cobham Road to complement the existing walking track.

Program 2 – FNDC02 Far North Bus Improvements

This program has three key projects, where the purpose of these projects is to increase public transport patronage by making it easier for people to use the services. This will be achieved through a combination of upgrading existing bus stops, improved guidance of bus stop locations and schedules. Bus stop upgrades include road markings, signage and shelters at high use stops.

Project 1 – Kaitaia around town bus service improvements

Project 2 – Mangonui–Kaitaia bus services improvements

Project 3 – Far North bus service improvements

E whai ake nei | Next Steps

Staff will present the Implementation Phase funding agreement for Far North Transport Choices program to Council for decision on whether to proceed with implementation of the 100% Government funded program.

Ngā tāpiritanga | Attachments

Attachment 1 – Far North Transport Choices Package Details

Attachment 2 – Kerikeri Active Modes Project Map
